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Circular Letter No. 118.

June 11, 1915.

TO THE AMERICAN TEACHERS:-

Before you return home to a well earned vacation I wish to express my feelings of appreciation for the work you have done during the present year. The Department feels that you have contributed in no small measure to the success of this year's work and to the advancement of education on the island. I hope that the satisfaction of having accomplished something for the progress and happiness of the people of Porto Rico will in some way compensate you for any discomforts you may have had to endure amidst strange surroundings.

As any assignments made at this time would be uncertain and, at least, only provisional, I am leaving this matter open until next September. I have made note of your preference for location and as far as good of the service will permit your desires will be considered.

Please bear in mind that the school year opens Sept. 20. In the past a number of teachers have accepted reappointment in good faith and have found, upon reaching home, that conditions there made it advisable for them not to return. In some cases this office has not been notify and the position has been kept opne until the last with the result that the Department found itself with a vacancy on its hands. I will ask you, therefore, to notify me, preferably by the mail leaving New York, August 7, and

in any event not later than that date, of your intention to return or not to return and to state on what date you intend to sail. Unless you notify me that you are coming, I shall be obliged to fill the position reserved for you.

Those who remain on the island for the summer should notify me by letter, stating intentions, not later than August 13. In order that we may be able to communicate with teachers, in case of necessity, during the vacation you should file your summer addresses in this office before the close of the school year.

Through the generosity of the Governor the Department will be able to maintain a summer school of six weeks' duration at Río Piedras for the purpose of training Porto Rican teachers in Home Economics and Manual Training. These courses will also be open to the American teachers who have been teaching Home Economics or Manual Training during the current year and to those who have had any previous instruction in either line, and will begin June 28. In case you wish to matriculate in this institute, please notify this office.

With best wishes for a pleasant and restful vacation,

Yours very truly,

E.M. BAINTER
Commissioner of Education